

Agricultural.

From the American Farmer.
WORK FOR THE WINTER.

Whilst it happens sometimes that the winter will not come so early as we have our oldest weather in this month, there is still accompanying it the pleasant reflection that the coming spring will not much longer be delayed. This winter has been one of such unusual and uninterrupted severity that it is hardly likely the balance of it will not be interrupted by more thaws and moderate "repels." The stormy days and long evenings give abundant opportunities for musing plans for the work ahead. A farmer cannot give too much thought to his work—the trouble is that they too often give too little.

MANURES AND COMPOSTS.—The gathering of materials for increasing the supply of these, their amalgamation together, and protection from loss of valuable parts, is a work which can be carried on profitably at almost every season. Few cases exist where such collecting can be protected by covers from the weather, but it is always preferable to locate your manure piles and compost heaps in their most useful positions, and to have them washed out by every rain that falls. The manure from horse and cow stables, pig pens, &c.; the wastes from house, dish water and chamber soils, may all be advantageously mixed together in a basin-shaped depression towards which, and not from which, the liquids will run. Many other substances can be added to such piles, to their increase as well of value as of bulk, such as leaves, old bones, sods, muck, dead animals or fowls, &c.

SOWING CLOVER SEED.—This month is a good time to sow, and if snow is on the ground when it is sown it adds to the regularity and evenness of the operation, and the seed carried into the earth by the sinking of melting snow lodge in the crevices left by the frost and are at once ready to germinate and grow. If it is not convenient to sow early, and you wait till the frost is over, the ground, it should then be lightly harrowed in and rolled. For most soils, from 10 to 12 lbs. per acre is a proper quantity.

As soon as the clover fairly begins to grow, an application of one or two bushels of plaster to the acre will help to establish it and give it a push ahead.

ORCHARD GRASS.—The value of this plant, not by any means a new introduction, seems to be but slowly realized by many, though others who test it are readily convinced as to its great merits. It is admirably adapted for sowing with clover—far better than Timothy is. They bloom about the same time and the clover seems to fill up the spaces between the stools of the Orchard grass. The yield is much greater than either will give alone, and late pasture is abundant and lasting.

The tendency to form stools, and the consequent loss of the plant, which has not been taken the proper means to remedy it, is considerably less when sowing with clover and early cutting. Some have recommended in sowing the seed to dampen it and turn it over once or twice, but an experienced hand finds no difficulty in sowing it evenly.

For late and early pasture, resisting drought, and long continuance, there is no forage plant equaling this. We know, too, that it is much more productive still, which have not been disturbed for over 20 years. Of course it needs top-dressings to maintain it.

PASTURES.—Now, when the teams can often be put on the pasture-lands without danger of poisoning, it gives a good chance to apply a mixture of, say 100 or 150 lbs. of bone-dust, 4 or 5 bushels of ashes, and 1 bushel each of salt and plaster, to the acre. If the state of the ground will permit, it is well to harrow; and when this application is made, to roll. Clover seed, if desired, may also then be sown.

GRAIN FIELDS ought to be looked after now. Don't allow stock on them when the ground is wet. See that surface drains are kept clear.

TOOLS, MACHINERY, WAGONS, &c.—Look these over now, and see that repairs are made before they are needed for use.

LIVE STOCK.—Now, more than at any other season of the year, every kind of farm animals need special care. Horses, to prepare them for the work to be done in the spring, ought to be well fed, moderately worked, regularly curried and comfortably bedded. Mares in foal should be kept in good condition, but not allowed to get too fat, whilst inactive. Colts should be kept thriving; a little handling and petting, even of the youngest, is good policy. Cows, both those giving milk and those in calf, should be fed with nutritious food. Give careful attention to sheep, especially ewes about lambing; and keep your hogs not only growing, but also clean and healthy.

PAINT AND REPAIR YOUR IMPLEMENTS.—No farmer should fail to put his farm implements in good order before work commences in the spring. Some of them, undoubtedly, need painting; and others, perhaps, are not in good repair, a brace being broken, or a bolt, or nut missing. While you are at the blacksmith's, it would be well to get a few extra nuts made for such implements as are liable to have them lost when in use. You should have the duplicate of such parts of your mowing machine as are most liable to break. These can be obtained of the maker; and if you never need them, you may consider yourself fortunate. Now is the time to attend to these matters. In regard to hoes, shovels, spades, &c., it is best to have a surplus, to be used in case you want to employ extra help at any time. It is unpleasant for a neighbor to be called on to lend a hoe, shovel, or other farm implement, when it can be bought for 50 cents to \$1.50. Remember, too, that the best tools are the cheapest in the end.

OTTER OF ROSES was discovered by accident. The wife of an Eastern mogul had a small canal of rose-water, and as she was walking one day upon its banks, she noticed a film upon the water, which proved to be an otter made by the heat of the sun. The Egyptians were very famous in the manufacture of perfumes, and at the museum in Alouk there is some otter preserved in an alabaster vase which still has a very powerful odor notwithstanding thousands of years old.

Humorous.

A poor soldier with his face half shot away, was asked by a comrade if he wanted anything. "I should like a drink of water if I had the face to ask for it," he replied.

A negro in South Carolina, complaining of the hard times, declared they were the hardest ever known. "Why," said he, "I work all day and steal all night as yet I'm blest if I can make an 'onest livin'."

It was a New Jersey boy who, having done some wicked thing and being asked whether he did not want to go to heaven, replied: "No; I don't want to get my fingers sore playing on an old harp."

A young lady sent a poem to a British newspaper entitled "I Cannot Make Him Smile." The boast of an editor ventured to express an opinion that she would have succeeded had she shown him the poem.

A young lady of Norfolk was so agitated while dancing with the Grand Duke that he fainted in his arms. The seion of nobility merely passed her over to one of the old ladies with the remark: "Toudanthinovich," and secured another partner.

A New York school master told a young miss that the word "obligatory" meant binding, whereupon she laid her head upon her hand, and, after a brief cogitation, handed the teacher this sentence: "The obligatory of my spelling book is worn out." He fainted.

"The sentence of the Court is," said Judge Porter, a popular Irish magistrate, to a notorious drunkard, "that you be confined in jail for the longest period the law will allow; and I hope you will spend the time in cursing whisky." "Be jabbers I will, and Porter, too," was the answer.

A young lady whose lover has absconded and left her forlorn, like poor Dido, has thus given vent to her sorrow: "He's gone across the sandy sea; he's crost the lucky water."

To see Jerry Angeline—Ben Snithers' oldest daughter.

"Jake," said the blushing damsel to a lover that her father had forbidden the house, "I don't care if your feet are big; I love you just as much." "Wall, Sally, I don't mind so much about the size of my own feet, but I wish your dad's were a little smaller; I should feel more confident, you know, about staying."

George Elliot says that girls are delicate vessels, in which is borne onward through the ages the treasure of human affection. George, George, you don't ever take a week's salary into a ladies' restaurant and try to fill one of these "delicate vessels" with ice cream, layer cake and chocolate caramels? Girls, it can't be done. This idea is stolen from the Uniform inscription found at Nineveh.

A gentleman, says Thackeray, is a rarer thing than some of us think for. Which of us can point out in his circle—men whose aims are generous; whose truth is constant and elevated; who can look the world honestly in the face, with an equal and manly sympathy for the great and small? We all know a hundred whose coats are well made, and a score who have excellent manners, but of gentlemen, how many? Let us take a scrap of paper and each make his list.

"Prof. Seelye," said Mr. Proctor Knott, "I have a matter here I would like to ask your opinion about. Mr. Knott drew out an invitation to dinner from which after reading place and time he went on as follows: 'The covers will be removed from the dishes in the presence of the guests by the steward, and the dinner shall then be eaten.' 'Now Professor, who is to eat the dinner, the steward, or the guests?' Mr. Seelye acknowledged that the witty Knottian had fairly earned the laugh.

Mr. George William Curtis, talking of railway mania, tells this story: "A young woman suddenly fainted in her seat and threw up her arms and exclaimed to her fellow-travelers, through a companion: 'Did you ever know anything so hot? I'm stifling. Can't you open this window? Whew! whew! O dear! it's dreadful, isn't it? It's always so in these cars. My! it's awful!'" A voice was heard from the other end of the car: "Yes, my dear, it's awful. But let's try to keep up. 'Tain't nothin' to the sufferin' of the other Christians!'" A general laugh followed, and nothing further was heard from that young woman.

A French soldier was sitting, a short time back, on the summit of a hill overlooking a garrison town; his horse was picketed nearby, and the man was smoking leisurely, and from time to time glancing from the esplanade to a big official envelope he had in his hand. A comrade passed and said: "What are you doing there?" "I am bearing the President MacMahon's pardon for our friend Pichmann, who is to be shot this morning," replied the soldier. "Well, then, hurry along with it," said his comrade. "O no! See, there is hardly a soul on the esplanade, and the firing place has not yet been formed. I am sure I would not have my appearance of all dramatic effect."

At a late ball in Paris a very stout gentleman, proprietor of a very bad catarrh and a very charming wife, insisted, very inconveniently at the close of a polka, that madame should return to the bosom of her family. "Never mind," she said to her partner; "ask me to dance in the next quadrille all the same; I will find a way to stay for it!" Slipping out while the sets were forming, she went into the gentleman's dressing-room, found her husband's hat, and threw it out of the window. Then returning, and requesting her spouse to find his hat and call the carriage, she accepted partners for the next six dances, quite sure of two hours before the hat could be found.

A young lawyer, trembling with fear, rose to make his first speech before Lord Ellenborough and began: "My lord, my unfortunate client—my lord—my unfortunate client—my lord—"

Middletown Directory.

CORPORATION OFFICERS.
TOWN COMMISSIONERS.—T. R. Hurn, President; T. R. Hurn, Jr., Secretary; J. H. Scowdrick, G. W. Wilson, Wm. W. Wilson. ASSESSOR.—C. E. Anderson. TREASURER.—J. H. Scowdrick. JUDGES OF THE PEACE.—DeW. C. Walker. POLICEMAN.—F. Schreitz.

NOTARY PUBLIC.
John A. Reynolds.

TRUSTEES OF THE ACADEMY.
Hon. John P. Cochran, Pres.; Henry Davis, Treas.; Samuel Penington, Sec.; James Keady, R. Gibbs, R. T. Cochran, N. Williams. PRINCIPAL OF ACADEMY.—T. S. Stevens.

OFFICERS OF CITIZENS' NAT'L BANK.
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CHURCHES.
FORN PRESBYTERIAN.—Rev. John Patton, D. D., Pastor. Divine service every Sunday at 10.30 a. m. and 7.00 p. m. Sunday School at 9.15 a. m. Lecture on Wednesdays at 7 p. m. Sunday School in the Chapel at Armstrong's every Sunday at 2 p. m.

ST. ALBAN'S PARISH.—Rev. R. H. Hall, Pastor. Divine service every Sunday at 10.30 a. m. and 7.00 p. m. Sunday School on Fridays at 8 o'clock.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.—Rev. L. C. Matlack, D. D., Pastor. Service every Sunday at 10.30 a. m. and 7.00 p. m. Prayer Meeting on Thursdays at 7.00 p. m.

MASONIC.
ADONIAH CHAPTER NO. 6, R. A. M. Meets in Masonic Hall on the second and fourth Fridays of every month at 8 o'clock, p. m. Union Lodge No. 6, F. & A. M. Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 8 o'clock, p. m. Masonic Hall.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.
DAVID LODGE NO. 12 Meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock. Lodge room in the Town Hall.

I. O. O. F.
GOOD SAMARITAN LODGE, NO. 9. Meets every Thursday evening at 7.15 o'clock. Lodge room in Cochran Hall, No. 2, Cochran Square.

BUILDING AND LOAN.
MIDDLETOWN B. & L. ASSOCIATION.—Samuel Penington, Pres.; A. G. Cox, Secretary. Meets on the first Thursday of every month at 8 o'clock, p. m.

MUTUAL LOAN ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLETOWN.—Jas. H. Scowdrick, Pres.; A. G. Cox, Secretary. Meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 8 o'clock, p. m.

AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.
PENINS. AGRICULTURAL AND POMOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Wm. R. Cochran, President and Chairman of Board of Managers; J. B. Naudin, Secretary. Next annual fair will be held on October 3d, 4th and 5th, 1877.

DIAMOND STATE BRASS BAND.
Meets for practice every Monday evening at 8 o'clock.

DELAWARE RAILROAD.
Passenger trains going North leave at 7.54 a. m. and 3.16 p. m. going South at 10.42 a. m. and 7.38 p. m. Freight trains with passenger cars attached, going North, leave at 5.09 p. m.; going South, at 6.25 a. m.

POST OFFICE.
Office Hours.—Opens at 9.30 a. m. and closes at 9 p. m. every day except Sunday. Mails for the North close at 7.15 a. m. and 3.00 p. m.

Mails for the South close at 10.15 a. m. and 7.38 p. m. Mails for Odesa close at 10.23 a. m. and 8.30 p. m. Mails for Warwick, Sasfrans and Cecilton close at 10.25 a. m.

STAGE LINES.
Stage for Odesa, with U. S. Mail, leaves shortly after arrival of the 10.43 a. m. and 8.52 p. m. mail trains.

Stages for Warwick, Sasfrans and Cecilton leave shortly after arrival of the 10.43 a. m. train.

THE GAZETTE.
1877 BALTIMORE 1877

Encouraged by the public appreciation of the effort to make a first-class independent journal, the Publisher of THE GAZETTE has perfected such arrangements as will maintain its present standing in advance of any other newspaper in Baltimore. The fearless and aggressive editorials of THE GAZETTE are its chief feature, and the variety of its reading matter will be an additional attraction to the general reader. It will be independent in all matters, and neutral in nothing, and will unspareingly denounce the wrong and commend the good, no matter what men or party may be affected by its action. Its constantly increasing corps of special correspondents includes able representatives at all the prominent news centres in the country, who will keep its readers fully informed of all current events. Its reliable Washington correspondence, henceforth a marked feature, will be found to be of more than ordinary interest, containing the news of the week carefully collated. It is filled with domestic and foreign news, special correspondence, able and fearless editorial comments, and interesting literary selections. It is prepared with a special view to make it a beautiful, vigorous, elevating and instructive family newspaper, and embraces every department of a first-class weekly journal. It is one of the best and cheapest newspapers in the country. Terms, in advance, \$1 a year, postage prepaid for a shorter time.

THE GAZETTE.
Address, Dec 30—61 Baltimore, Maryland

MIDDLETOWN
Iron Foundry and Machine Shop.

PLOWS and Plow Castings, Machine Cast ings of all kinds on hand or made to order. Particular attention given to Repairing Machinery. Cash for old iron.

WM. L. BUCKE & SON, Founders and Machinists.

For Rent.
The Cottage, on Green Street, adjoining Dr. Chamberlain's. In complete order. Jan. 20-17 WILLIAM GREEN.

FOR RENT.
A comfortable Ten Roomed House, with Stable, Carriage House, Garden, Plenty of Shade, &c. Terms moderate. Possession at once, if desired. Situated 2 1/2 miles from town. S. R. COCHRAN, Jan. 13-17

FOR SALE OR RENT.
TWO DWELLINGS on Lake Street, company terms or will be rented. Apply to WM. H. REYNOLDS, dec 23-41 820 West St., Wilmington Del.

For Rent.
The Brick Dwelling, with Store attached (known as Lockwood's Corner), or with House and Store separate. Possession given March 25th, 1877. For further particulars, apply to Mrs. MARTHA E. CLAYTON, dec 30-17

For Rent.
A 9 Room House, with Carriage House and Stable, on Main Street.

For Rent.
A 9 Room House, with Carriage House and Stable, on Lake Street.

For Sale.
A lot of Thoroughbred WHITE CHESTER PIGS. Also, a lot of Full Blooded GAME CHICKENS. Apply to S. F. SHALLCROSS, Jr., Jan. 6-1m

Grain, Lumber, Feed, &c.

ISAAC JONES, Jr.,
GRAIN DEALER,
Middletown, Delaware.

AGENT FOR
Wm. Lea & Sons,
BRANDYWINE MILLS.

Highest Market Price
On Chesapeake and Delaware Waters

OR ON DELAWARE R. R.

And its Connections.
AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN

COAL LIME, FLOUR,
FEED, SEEDS,
FERTILIZERS,
Agricultural Implements, &c.

Best Lehigh and Schuylkill anthracite and Cumberland bituminous Coals on hand at all times.

1877 BALTIMORE WEEKLY SUN, 1877

At the beginning of the first year following the centenary of American Independence, THE BALTIMORE WEEKLY SUN will be found an interesting paper, not only for the family, but for all persons who desire to have a condensed and reliable record of the current news of the world. The general character of THE WEEKLY SUN is well established. It is the best paper of its kind for the Farmer, the Merchant, the Mechanic and the Household. It publishes from week to week a succession of original and well-written American Stories, written expressly in competition for the prize, amounting to twelve hundred dollars, offered and paid by THE SUN for those which an intelligent committee decided to be the best. In addition to these its columns contains interesting tales drawn from other sources, great care being invariably taken to exclude all that is offensive in tone or pernicious in morals. Equal pains is taken in preparing its summary of the news of the week which is brought down to the hour of publication, and so furnish the latest account of the prices of gold and stocks and securities, with a review of past transactions accompanied by such comments as the occasion may require. Its market report is fresh and accurate, and will embrace all the information that farmers and dealers require for the intelligent transaction of business, whether as buyers or sellers of the produce of the farm, or of the market of the city.

Original and selected articles on literary, political, social and agricultural topics will constitute, as heretofore, leading features, and every effort will be made to increase its attractiveness in every department. Its financial reports will be brought down to the hour of publication, and so furnish the latest account of the prices of gold and stocks and securities, with a review of past transactions accompanied by such comments as the occasion may require. Its market report is fresh and accurate, and will embrace all the information that farmers and dealers require for the intelligent transaction of business, whether as buyers or sellers of the produce of the farm, or of the market of the city.

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